

**DRAFT**  
**City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee**  
November 9, 2011 – Minutes Taken by Jan Dillon

**Members Attending:** Michael Arnott, Claire Davies, George Delegas, Jan Dillon, Rob Gogan, Lisa McMenemy, Adam Mitchell, Judy Nathans, Laura Nichols, Jason Zogg

**Staff Attending:** Meryl Brott, John Fitzgerald, Randi Mail

**Guests Attending:** Joel Dashnaw, Helen Snively

**Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

**Approve Minutes**

Minutes were approved from the October 12 meeting.

**Market Update**

Lisa provided an update. Sharp decrease in **paper and cardboard** export market has inundated domestic mills. This time of year, generation increases. Markets dropped \$40-\$90/ton based on product and geography. Paper selling at \$100/ton, cardboard selling at \$130/ton. **Plastics** market will likely soften, supply and demand currently in synch. HDPE Nat selling at \$700/ton. Both HDPE Color and PET selling around \$600/ton. Little change with **glass**, still going to Strategic Materials in MA. **Metal** – Tin steady selling at roughly \$300/ton. Aluminum has also been relatively stable at \$1500/ton.

**Tons Update**

Randi gave an update on curbside recycling and trash stats. **Tons recycled increased** in Oct 752 tons, up from 534 tons in 2010. **Tons disposed decreased** in Oct 1267 tons, down from 1307 tons in 2010. \*\*Tons disposed does not include multi-family buildings served by private haulers, businesses or the universities.

**City Updates**

- **School Composting Update** - Meryl reported that it is going well. Peabody just launched a program, with strong support from parents in the first few weeks to assist in the café. Cambridgeport will launch a program at the end of November. She continues to work on plans for the high school, focusing on purchasing permanent cafeteria stations with different sections for liquids, recycling, compost and trash.
- **MassRecycle Award** - Cambridge received MassRecycle's 2011 Board of Director's Outstanding Achievement Award for visionary leadership and innovative efforts to improve recycling and waste reduction. DPW Commissioner Lisa Peterson accepted the award at the ceremony November 15 at the Lexington Natural Heritage Museum. Many awards were given at the event.
- **Mass DEP Grant** – The City will get a \$60,000 MassDEP 2-year grant for curbside food scraps program for residents. She'll develop a scope of work to be finalized by February and expects to hire a grad student in the spring to help with the initial evaluation. Part 1 will evaluate who will do collection, where to process (yard waste + food scraps), costs, what neighborhood for pilot, and evaluation tools. If part 1 shows this can be economic and operationally sound, then part 2 will pilot program for 500 households. Cambridge is the first major MA city to pursue this.
- **News** - Mass Clean Energy Center (CEC) announced an [Organics-to-Energy Program](#) that will provide funding to educate businesses and communities about organics-to-energy technologies, help communities and businesses evaluate projects, and support construction of facilities. Applications are being accepted.
- **Trash Sort** - One more scheduled on Wed, 12/7. Volunteers are needed: 9am-12 noon or 12:30-3:30pm.
- **Tours** - Fall tours for Casella recycling and Waste Management's incinerator in Saugus sites have concluded and will resume in the spring. All tours were well attended, with nearly 70 people participating. Randi also went on a MassRecycle tour of the Strategic Materials glass facility in Franklin MA. Most of their glass comes from bottle bill facilities, Casella also sends them glass. Glass accounts for roughly 15% of curbside recycling by weight. Strategic Materials has 42 plants in US and plans to build 2 more per year.

- **Outreach Events** – For Halloween, Meryl & Randi created an Animal Protector outfit, tying in recycling to protection of wildlife. Meryl wore it to most of the school Halloween events and it was a huge success. Volunteer Alki was a recycling woman at the Super Hero race. Randi and volunteer Susan were Woody and Jess respectively from Toy Story at the Dudley St Pixar Halloween party and promoted recycling.



### Discussion Topics

As a reminder, members should submit agenda topics to Adam or Judy least one week prior to each meeting. Topics for meetings should reinforce goals for the committee as a whole and include specific work related to the subcommittees.

Suggestions for upcoming meetings:

- Members each discuss how their work involves recycling and composting.
- Invite John Bolduc to discuss local climate initiatives including the City's Climate Protection Committee (CPAC), Climate Congress, MA level efforts, Discuss CPAC's goals/objectives and plans for outreach.
- Green jobs related to recycling, composting and reuse. Oakland CA did good work in this area. Possible speaker from Community Development, and network with the Chamber of Commerce and other business organizations.

Clarification on MA [open meeting law](#). More than a quorum of Committee members or a sub-committee cannot work by email on projects. Minutes should include executive sessions, with the date, time and place, members present or absent, summary of discussion on each subject, list of documents and other exhibits (such as photos, reports, maps) used at the meeting, decisions made and actions taken including record of all votes. Minutes should be available within 10 days.

### Subcommittees

The three subcommittees met briefly and summarized their discussion and actions afterward to the full group.

- **Outreach** – Members present: Claire and Laura. Focus is to increase number of residents that receive monthly eNewsletter, recruit more volunteers, expand pledge participants and help expand web FAQs. The team will also collaborate with the CPAC outreach team to understand prior work done, potential overlap, and areas where partnering across RAC and CPAC makes sense.
- **Zero Waste** – Members present: Jason, Rob G., Lisa, Michael, and George. Discussed major themes of the Zero Waste plans reviewed to date and additional zero waste plans that members will look at for common themes, elements and plan structure and approaches that might make sense for Cambridge. The committee will give an overview to the RAC at an upcoming meeting.

**Business Recycling** - Members present: Judy and Jan. Given busy schedules future subcom meetings will be scheduled outside of RAC. Will work through Hauler meeting notes to determine what recommendations make sense, which need some testing with businesses, and what should wait. Will develop formal recommendations in the next few months, discuss how to best use current data, test recommendations with a few businesses to avoid any 'unintended consequences'. Will develop sectors for the business types, contact a few businesses in at least 1-2 sectors. More dedicated focus on business recycling and the current data is needed. May also recommend a best approach and resources to review and use current data. Upcoming meetings: 11/28 & 12/16 to look at business sectors and possibly hauler recommendations.

The next meeting will be held December 14 at 8am.